



THE IMPACT OF SERVICE MEMBER DEATH ON MILITARY FAMILIES

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Principal Investigator**

A recent count of American military deaths in the past ten years includes over 15,500 service members with a consequent impact on approximately 75,000-100,000 family members www.defenselink.gov. The death of a service member is a life changing event for the entire family. From the initial distress to longer term adjustment challenges, children, spouses, parents, siblings and extended family members face difficult emotional and practical problems as a result of bereavement. While bereavement as a result of the death of a loved one is the most common stress human beings can expect to experience, grief and loss of those serving in the military poses potentially different challenges to family members. While certain similarities between civilian and military bereavement are likely, it may be that families of service members

possess unique risk and protective factors that affect their bereavement in the military context and will inform future interventions with grieving families.

The proposed national study considers the distinctive characteristics of military death and identifies the different experiences of family members as individuals (surviving spouse, children, parents & siblings of the deceased) and as a family unit. We will investigate key influencing factors such as family member attitudes, behaviors and feelings about the loss, characteristics and meaning of death, and usefulness of community support and resources to bereaved families.

The study will employ diverse methods to engage the bereaved military community across the country. First, we will conduct a statistical analysis of help seeking behaviors and

health care utilization by bereaved families using national databases such as TRICARE. Second, the study will create a national survey entitled the "*National Survivor's Questionnaire*." Open to up to 3,000 bereaved family members, the goal is to understand grief from the point of view of different family members (surviving spouse, children, parents and siblings of the deceased service member) at various points in time since the death (within three months extending to 9 years). The questionnaire will be available on-line, telephonically or in a paper version. In addition, selected families representing Active Duty as well as the National Guard and Reserves, will be invited to participate in face-to-face interviews so that a more detailed and comprehensive understanding of military death loss can be obtained. Children above age 8 who agree and parents

Special points of interest:

- Operation Military Kids
- Roll Call
- SF Giants Game
- Salute a Soldier
- Military Child Education Coalition
- Ft. Huachuca Events
- Camp Paz
- Grant Program
- What Survivors Are Doing
- Wounded Warrior Event
- 6th Annual "Legacy" Scholarship Rally
- Gold Star Wives Day
- Memorial Day ride ahead
- Resources

OPERATION MILITARY KIDS



Free* \$200 SAT and ACT Test Prep Programs

eKnowledge has donated more than \$33 million worth of SAT and ACT Test Preparation Programs to Military Service Members and their Families worldwide. This valuable donation from eKnowledge is in its seventh consecutive year. The Military Donation Project is in alliance with the Department of Defense and supported by professional athletes from the NFL and MLB, as well as over 100 organizations, groups and non-profits.

About the SAT and ACT PowerPrep™ Programs

The SAT or ACT PowerPrep™ Program comes in a single DVD and includes more than 11 hours of video instruction and 3000 files of supplemental test prep material, thousands of interactive diagnostic tools, sample questions, practice tests and graphic teaching illustrations. Students select the training they need and can study at their own pace.

Who is eligible to receive the donated software?

Eligible recipients included Servicemembers from all branches of the Military who are active duty, retired, Veterans, Guard, Reserve, all DOD employees, and civilians performing Military support. Also eligible are relatives and dependants of anyone who otherwise qualifies from the prior list.

How to order:

The eKnowledge Sponsorship covers the complete \$200 purchase price for the SAT or ACT Test Preparation Program. There is a nominal charge of \$17.55 (per standard program) for the cost of materials, support and shipping. Each SAT or ACT Test Preparation program has a one-year license from the day the product is shipped. The DVD may be renewed for an additional twelve months at the same donation rate.

Through Operation Military Kids, Families may order the sponsored educational programs by visiting: www.eKnowledge.com/OMK or by telephone 951-256-4076 (reference Operation Military Kids)

Testimonials

eKnowledge has received over 55,000 thank you letters and testimonials from Military Families who have ordered the donated software. Students are prepared, confident and many have earned thousands of dollars in scholarships due to increased test scores.

For further information contact: Lori Caputo, Director,
Military Donation Project

Lori-
Caputo@eKnowledge.com or
951-256-4076

ROLL CALL

We thought of you with love today, But that is nothing new.	Last Name	First Name	Branch	Rank	Date of Death
	Bogle	Jackson	USA	BG	04/19/2005
We thought about you yesterday, And days before that too.	Cervantes-Ramirez	Guadalupe	USA	SGT	04/23/2008
	Dallam	Ryan	USAR	SPC	04/06/2007
	Davis	Edward	USMC	Sgt	04/28/2006
We think of you in silence, We often speak your name.	Garcia	Christian	USA	SGT	04/02/2011
	Hicks	Ray	USA	SGT	04/24/2010
	Huff	Sam	USA	PFC	04/18/2005
Now all we have are memories, And your picture in a frame.	Johnsen	Deborah	USA	SFC	04/25/2003
	Knott	Joseph	USA	PV2	04/17/2005
	Lauderdale	James	ARNG	SFC	04/22/2005
	Lopez-Rodriguez	Damien	USAR	PV2	04/06/2007
Your memory is our keepsake, With which we'll never part	Losano	Raymond	USAF	A1C	04/28/2003
	Mangus	Joseph	ARNG	SPC	04/09/2007
	Mendez	Bobby	USA	1SG	04/27/2006
	Mortenson	Marty	USMC	LCpl	04/20/2005
God has you in His keeping We have you in our Heart. -Author Unknown	Nylander	Nathan	USAF	Capt	04/27/2011
	Pearson	Brice	USA	SGT	04/23/2007
	Ramos	Christopher	Pfc	USMC	04/05/2004
	Reimer	James	SSG	USA	04/26/2005
	Ruiz	Fernando	SPC	USA	04/09/2005
	Sanchez	Sergio	USA	SPC	04/12/2008
	Smith	David	USA	SFC	04/16/2011
	Solorio	Ismael	USA	SPC	04/09/2007
	Tamuty	Travis	USA	SPC	04/28/2010
	Therrien	Richard	USA	PV2	04/20/2007
	Thompson	Jonathon	USA	PFC	04/12/2007
	Tillman	Patrick	USA	CPL	04/22/2004
	Tinnell	Patrick	USA	PFC	04/19/2006
	Todacheene	Lee	USA	SGT	4/6/2004
	Toombs	Carl	ARNG	SGT	4/7/2009
	Waddell	Robert	USA	SPC	4/2/2002
	White	Nathan	USN	LT	04/02/2003
	Wise	Andrew	USA	PV1	04/22/2008
	Zurheide	Robert	USMC	LCpl	04/12/2004

THE IMPACT OF SERVICE MEMBER DEATH ON MILITARY FAMILIES CONT...

consent will also be invited to share their perspectives on the death of their parent in military service. Because so little is known about resiliency and the grieving process in young people, children will also be included in focus groups. The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) has partnered with the study to avail opportunities for focus groups and child interviews at their Good Grief Camps, which are held on a monthly basis throughout the United States. Finally, a unique aspect of the current work is bio-

marker analysis. Recent research has suggested links between genetic markers and complicated grief reactions. All survivors will be invited to volunteer saliva samples for analysis.

Given the size and scope of this project we believe the results will help both those grieving the death of a U.S. Service Member as well as identify those individuals most at risk for serious complications in their bereavement process (e.g., major depression, complicated grief, post-traumatic stress

disorder). These findings will help design prevention and intervention strategies to address the grief and trauma care needs of surviving military families.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS GAME



AZ HEROES TO HOMETOWN



Salute A Soldier

5K Run/ 1Mile Walk

Honor our military and wounded warriors and give back to those that have given much!

DATE: Saturday, May 12th, 2012 @ 8:00 A.M.

(Packet pickup day of race starting at 7:00 am)

LOCATION: Freestone Park

1045 E Juniper Rd

Gilbert, AZ

(At the corner of Lindsay and Juniper Roads between
Guadalupe and Elliot Roads)



COST: \$35.00 5K RUN or \$20.00 1 MILE WALK (family rates are available)

TIME: Beginning of race ceremonies start promptly @ 7:45AM with 5K run starting @ 8:00 AM, followed by the 1 Mile walk at 8:15 AM.

REGISTRATION: For your convenience we have set up an account on www.active.com or you can visit our website www.AZHeroestoHometowns.org and use PayPal. Or you can also print out our registration forms from the sites and make checks payable to AZHeroes to Hometowns.

*This event will be a single use Chip timed race for 5K runners only

For more information please contact Kathy Pearce @ azheroestohometowns@gmail.com or 480-330-1632

Mail to: AZ Heroes to Hometowns P. O. BOX 31646, Mesa, AZ. 85275

*Please keep checking on www.AZHeroestoHometowns.org for more information or if interested in being a sponsor for this event.

*Last minute registrations will be accepted on the day of the race starting at 7:00 AM.
\$25.00 to walk, \$40.00 to run cash or check only on race day.

MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION COALITION

The Military Child Education Coalition and From the Top with host Christopher O'Riley, the hit NPR radio program showcasing America's best young classical musicians, is seeking young musicians with military parents who are Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or post 9-11 Veterans for its live show recording on June 27, 2012 at The Gaylord Texan in Grapevine, Texas. The weekly hour-long radio program is heard on more than 200 stations nationwide. The show will be presented by the Military Child Education

Coalition at its National Conference. From the Top's 2011-12 National Tour is sponsored by U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management.

From the Top welcomes audition entries from young classical musicians with military parents, ages 8 to 18 who have not graduated from high school. Solo performers on all instruments, composers and vocalists, as well as instrumental or vocal ensembles are welcome. In addition to seeking talent for its upcoming live concert in Grapevine, Texas, the program seeks

young musicians for other concerts that are part of its national tour on a rolling admissions basis.

For complete information, please click the following link <http://www.militarychild.org/news-and-events/from-the-top>.



"Young musicians who will knock your socks off!" – NBC's Today



FROM THE TOP

LIVE WITH HOST CHRISTOPHER O'RILEY

The Military Child Education Coalition and From the Top are seeking young, military-connected classical musicians.



The hit NPR radio program showcasing America's best young classical musicians, is seeking young musicians with military parents who are Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves or post 9-11 Veterans for its live show recording on June 27, 2012 at The Gaylord Texan in Grapevine, Texas. The show will be presented by the Military Child Education Coalition at its National Conference.

2011-12 NATIONAL TOUR SPONSOR

U.S. TRUST



Bank of America Private Wealth Management



npr.org with support from National Endowment for the Arts

FORT HUACHUCA FAMILY FUN DAY



FORT HUACHUCA UPCOMING EVENTS

FORT HUACHUCA SOS SUPPORT GROUPS:

4/13/2012 at 1130 hours Elks Lodge 1 Elks Lane Sierra Vista, Arizona

5/4/2012 at 1130 hours Elks Lodge 1 Elks Lane Sierra Vista, Arizona

PIMA COUNTY SOS SUPPORT GROUPS:

4/20/2012 at 1530 hours Arizona State Veteran Home 555 E Ajo Way (Middle, huge building) Tucson, Arizona

5/18/2012 at 1530 hours Arizona State Veteran Home 555 E Ajo Way (Middle, huge building) Tucson, Arizona

APRIL'S CAMP PAZ WEEKEND

What do you say to a child grieving the loss of loved one?

This is one of the questions asked when a loved one dies. Children grieve differently than adults and their grief process is sometimes misunderstood. Often children learn best from other children who share their experience.

Stepping Stones of Hope brings children and their families together to do just that share their experience. CAMP PAZ is an overnight camp reaching out to grieving children, ages 6-17, and their families to provide a neutral and safe environment where friendships are created and healing can take place. At CAMP PAZ, children learn they are not alone and realize their feelings are normal.

What: Camp Paz for Kids and Camp Paz for Grown-Ups
When: April 21– 22, 2012
Location: Whispering Hope Ranch, Payson, AZ
Cost: \$50.00 per camper

Transportation is not provided. (Partial scholarships are available)

Registration fee includes lodging, food, activities and take home items.

Thanks to Western Refining for their support of this camp!

Register for CAMP PAZ online at www.steppingstonesofhope.org or call Stepping Stones of Hope at (602) 264-7520
Email: info@steppingstonesofhope.org

Stepping Stones of Hope is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization #42-1556863.

Stepping Stones of Hope
4000 N. 7th Street, Suite #108
Phoenix, Arizona 85014

West Valley Support Group:

(American Legion Post 29,
6822 North 57th Drive,
Glendale, AZ 85301)

- 12 April 2012 at 6pm
- 14 June 2012 at 6pm
- 12 July 2012 at 6pm

Upcoming Events:

- “SPRING FLING” 19 May 2012 at 12pm– Location TBD

East Valley Support Group:

(1000 E. University Drive,
Tempe, AZ 85281)

- 26 April 2012 at 6pm
- 28 June 2012 at 6pm
- 26 July 2012 at 6pm

OUR MILITARY KIDS GRANT PROGRAMS FOR SURVIVORS

Below you will find a clear description of eligibility requirements for Our Military Kids grants:

- The program is available to dependent children of service members KIA in 2010, 2011, and 2012 from all branches and components of service.
- The program is available to dependent children of service members killed CONUS while on a training mission in 2010, 2011, 2012 from all branches and components of service.
- The program is available to dependent children of service members KIA in 2001-2012 who are in immediate need of academic tutoring.
- For children of service members KIA CONUS/CONUS 2001-2009, we can cover academic tutoring only.

Operate under a controlled rollout. However, the program wants to ensure that children who are struggling academically are able to obtain the tutoring services they need to stay at grade level or improve their academic performance. For this reason, they will accept grant requests from Survivors of Service Members KIA prior to 2010 for tutoring services ONLY.

3rd ANNUAL RAY RIVAS MEMORIAL BIKE RIDE

Lt. Col. Raymond Trejo Rivas (USAR Ret.) died July 15, 2009, at Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio after battling to recover from head injuries suffered nearly four years ago. The 53-year-old veteran of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq suffered from traumatic brain injury and other ailments after an Oct. 12, 2006, mortar attack. Military operations in which he participated included Africa, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. He attended Army Special Operations School, Army Command, General Staff College and Army Advanced Engineering School. Ray Rivas lived the life of a hero. He wanted to serve his country as best he could. He often volunteered for dangerous combat missions as he did not want someone else standing in for him in the war zone. It is my hope that America remembers Lt. Col. Raymond T. Rivas as a hero in death.

Youngest of five brothers, AD1 (AW) Andrew Rivas USNR (Ret) will honor Ray's memory by completing a 509 mile un-supported bike ride from his home in Flagstaff, AZ to Las Cruces, NM where the Rivas brothers grew up. Lt. Col. Rivas was one of five brothers whose combined military service totals 93 years of continuous unbroken service in the US Army, US Marine Corps and US Navy. At the conclusion of the ride on June 1st, a memorial service will be held at the Las Cruces Veterans Memorial Park at approximately 4 PM.

I am encouraging riders to join me any where along my route in honoring Ray and all those that have served in the armed forces.

"Duty, Honor, Country"

Follow me on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/LT-COL-RAYMOND-TREJO-RIVAS-MEMORIAL-RIDE/128368270518165>

3rd ANNUAL RAY RIVAS MEMORIAL BIKE RIDE MAY 26 - JUNE 1 FLAGSTAFF, AZ TO LAS CRUCES, NM



Proud
Supporter of



DATE	BEGINING	ENDING	MILES
26 May	Flagstaff AZ	Payson, AZ	89
27 May	Payson, AZ	Globe, AZ	84
28 May	Globe, AZ	Safford, AZ	79
29 May	Safford, AZ	Blackjack CG, AZ	48
30 May	Blackjack, AZ	Silver City, NM	67
31 May	Silver City, NM (Via Emory Pass)	Caballo, NM	76
1 June	Caballo, NM	Las Cruces, NM	66

Special Thanks to my sponsors:



BIKETRAILERSHOP.COM
1.800.717.2596



(928) 773-9881



WHAT OUR SURVIVORS ARE DOING

Meghan Walls is a Gold Star Wife and Mother of three. Wanting to do something special for her husband, CPL Jonathan Walls, when he was coming home from his first tour to Iraq, she got the idea for "Welcome Home" cakes. She discovered a passion for baking. After Jonathan was killed in Afghanistan in 2009, she searched for something to do to and baking came back into her life.

The pure joy of seeing a mom pick up her baby shower cake, a bride and groom walking in and seeing the cake they've dreamed of or a

Welcome Home cake for a military member returning from a deployment; these are the things that keep her baking. She is working hard to bake someone's day a little brighter!

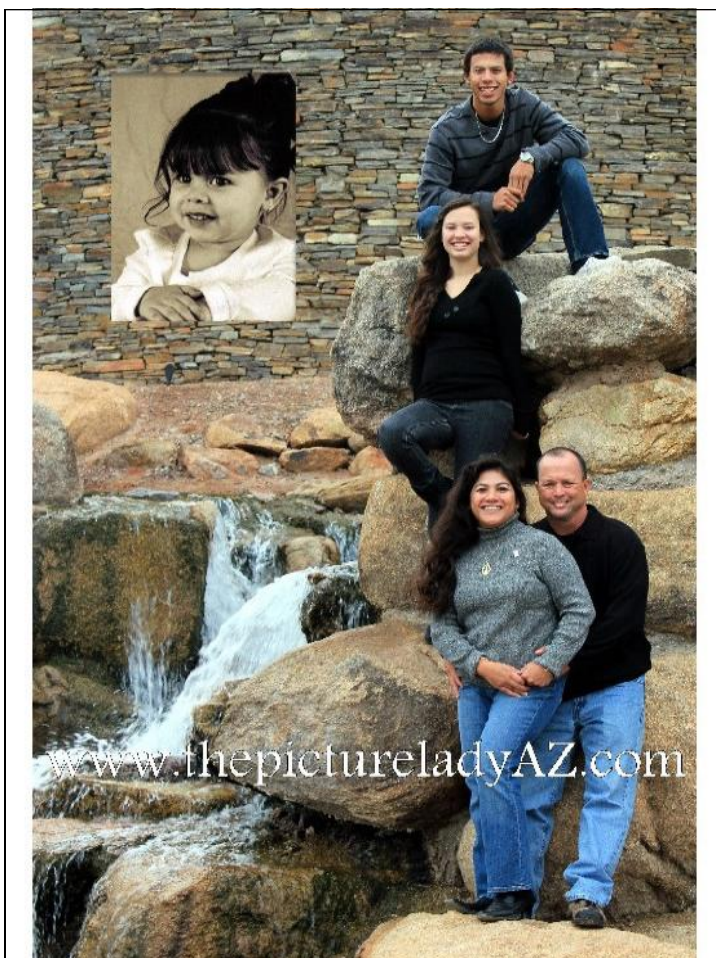
Check her out at
www.goldstardesserts.com or
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gold-Star-Desserts/222339364499417>



Tricia Meyers has always wanted to have her own photo studio. She dabbled in it from duty station to duty station, taking photos on the side for people when her husband was on active duty. It wasn't until her Dad died that she finally decided to follow through with her dream of having her own business and officially became "The Picture Lady".

"My Dad always told us "Don't be like me, be better than me" and I know he would be proud of me in taking the plunge to start my photo business." For those interested, please see Tricia's gift of photography.

Her website is
www.thepictureladyAZ.com



MARCUS MATHIS & WOUNDED WARRIORS



Marcus Mathis, son of Regina Mathis, fourth from the left was in attendance at the Benefit Softball Game. It was the Chandler Police Department versus the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team, in which the event was a great success. The game was sponsored by Floridino's Restaurants and the event contributor was GrahamSports.Net.



SATURDAY, APRIL 7TH - GLENDALE - 6TH ANNUAL "LEGACY" SCHOLARSHIP RALLY

American Legion Riders Post 29 in Glendale, AZ are holding their 6th Annual Legacy Scholarship Rally. Everyone is welcome - Bike or Cage. Music, Food, Fun Ride, Raffles, and Ride Pins to first 100. All proceeds go to the Legacy Fund, which supports children of fallen military heroes. Rider \$20 - Passenger \$10. Registration 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. American Legion Post 29 is located at 6822 N. 57th Drive in Glendale, AZ.

For more info contact Vern at 602-978-3930.

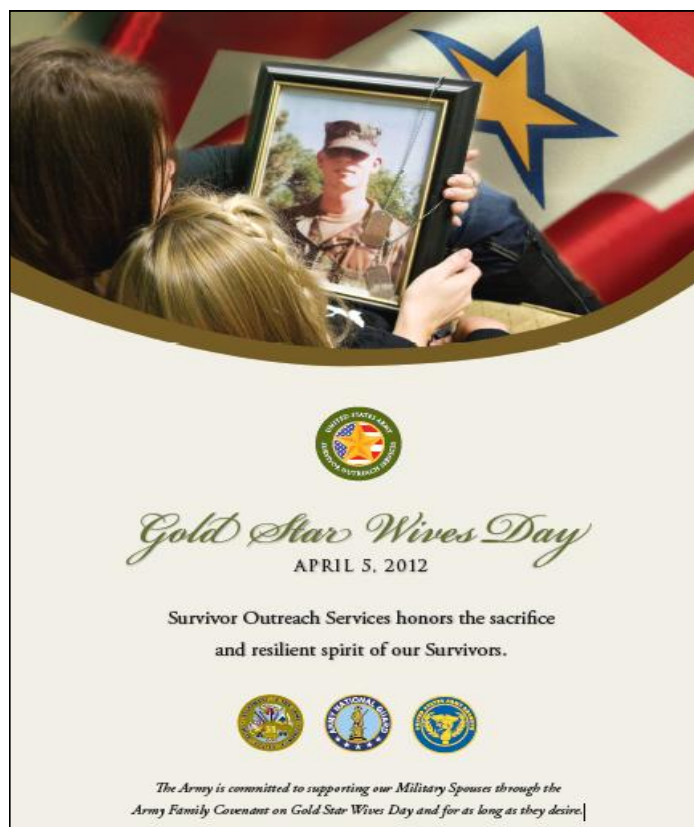


GOLD STAR WIVES DAY-5 APRIL 2012

Gold Star Wives of America is a national service organization comprised of widows and widowers whose spouses died while serving in the armed forces of the United States, or as a result of a service-connected disabilities and illness. This non-profit organization provides a very unique service to its members not available from any other organization. It was incorporated in New York in 1945 with the help of Eleanor Roosevelt and received a federal charter from Congress in 1980. Designating Gold Star Wives Day on April 5, 2012 ensures our spouses, who paid the supreme sacrifice, are not forgotten.

For over 67 years, Gold Star Wives has been dedicated to securing the health and welfare of its members and their children by appearing before House and Senate committees to speak about issues related to the improvement of benefits in education, medical care, and other military survivor programs. Through these years they have spearheaded increased Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), retention of DIC after age 55 if remarried, elimination of the DIC offset to the Survivors Benefit Program (SBP) and improved health and pharmacy benefits.

As a national service organization located in all 50 states of the union, members provide information of services that pertain to DIC for un-remarried and reinstated widows/widowers, TRICARE, CHAMPVA, educational benefits and VA home loans. They volunteer to work in the community, Veterans hospitals, and with welfare projects while making personal contributions to their communities in support of Veteran programs.



MEMORIAL DAY RIDE AHEAD

2ND ANNUAL
MEMORIAL DAY RIDE

AND CONCERT
MAY 27, 2012

2:30PM - REGISTRATION OPENS

BUDDY STUBBS HARLEY-DAVIDSON
13850 N. CAVE CREEK RD., PHX

4:30PM - KICKSTANDS UP

GOLD STAR FLAG FLOWN BY
MIKE BROOMHEAD
NEWSTALK 550 KFYI
IN HONOR OF HIS BROTHER, TOM, KIA

7:00PM - CONCERT & AFTER PARTY

DILLON'S & WILDLIFE WORLD ZOO
16501 W. NORTHERN AVE.
LITCHFIELD PARK

WESTERN BRED
ARIZONA'S NUMBER ONE
COUNTRY BAND

ONLINE SPECIAL PRICING @ 2012AZMemorialDayRide.eventbrite.com
***FIRST 300 REGISTERED GET A FREE MEMORIAL DAY RIDE T-SHIRT!**

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- PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTIST -
www.HarleyBonham.com

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SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES (SOS)

Stella Julander Cook
Office: 602-267-2171/2379
Blackberry: 602-301-8260
Email: stella.j.cook.ctr@us.army.mil

Kevin Herzinger
Office: 602-267-2172/2739
Blackberry: 602-301-0253
kevin.k.herzinger@us.army.mil

Brook Wiggins
Office: 602-267-2173/602-629-4703
Blackberry: 602-750-2853
Email: brook.wiggins@us.army.mil



The mission of the Army SOS program is to embrace and reassure the Survivors that they are linked to the Military family through a unified support program that enables them to remain an important part of the military for as long as they desire. SOS Coordinators assist Survivors whose loved one served on Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves, Retirees and Veterans of any Military Service.

Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) is an Army-wide program that provides dedicated and comprehensive support services to survivors of deceased Soldiers. The program standardizes casualty assistance services and policies across the Army and provides additional staffing at Casualty Assistance Centers (CACs), Army Community Service (ACS) Centers, and Army National Guard (ARNG) and US Army Reserve (USAR) Family Programs.

We're on the Web!
<http://www.azguard.gov>

RESOURCES

Education Websites

Army Family Programs
www.arfp.org

Beaumont Foundation of America www.bmtfoundation.com

Camp Solari
www.solarihospice.com/go2/solari-kids-camp.cfm

Child Grief Education Association www.childgrief.org/

Children of Fallen Heroes
www.cfsrf.org

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation
www.fallenpatriots.org

Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund
www.cfsrf.org

Fisher House Foundation
www.fisherhouse.org

Folds of Honor Foundation
www.foldsofhonor.org

Scholarships

Spouse/Caregiver Spring 2012 Scholarship
<http://www.hopeforthewarriors.org/scholareligh.html>

FRY Scholarship
http://www.gibill.va.gov/documents/factsheets/fry_scholarship.pdf

Pat Tillman Scholarship
http://www.gibill.va.gov/resources/education_resources/Tillman_Scholarship.html

<http://www.foldsofhonor.org/scholarships>

<http://militaryscholar.org/index.html>

DRS Scholarship Fund for Children of Fallen Guardsmen
<http://www.ngef.org/index.asp?bid=300>

(The DRS Scholarship assists the college-bound children of Fallen National Guardsmen. Those selected will receive four grants of \$6,500 during each year they attend school. Application deadline is 30 June 2012.)